



BOROUGH OF HARWICH,
1923.

Annual Report

ON THE

Health of Harwich,

AND

Medical Inspection of School Children,
HARWICH,

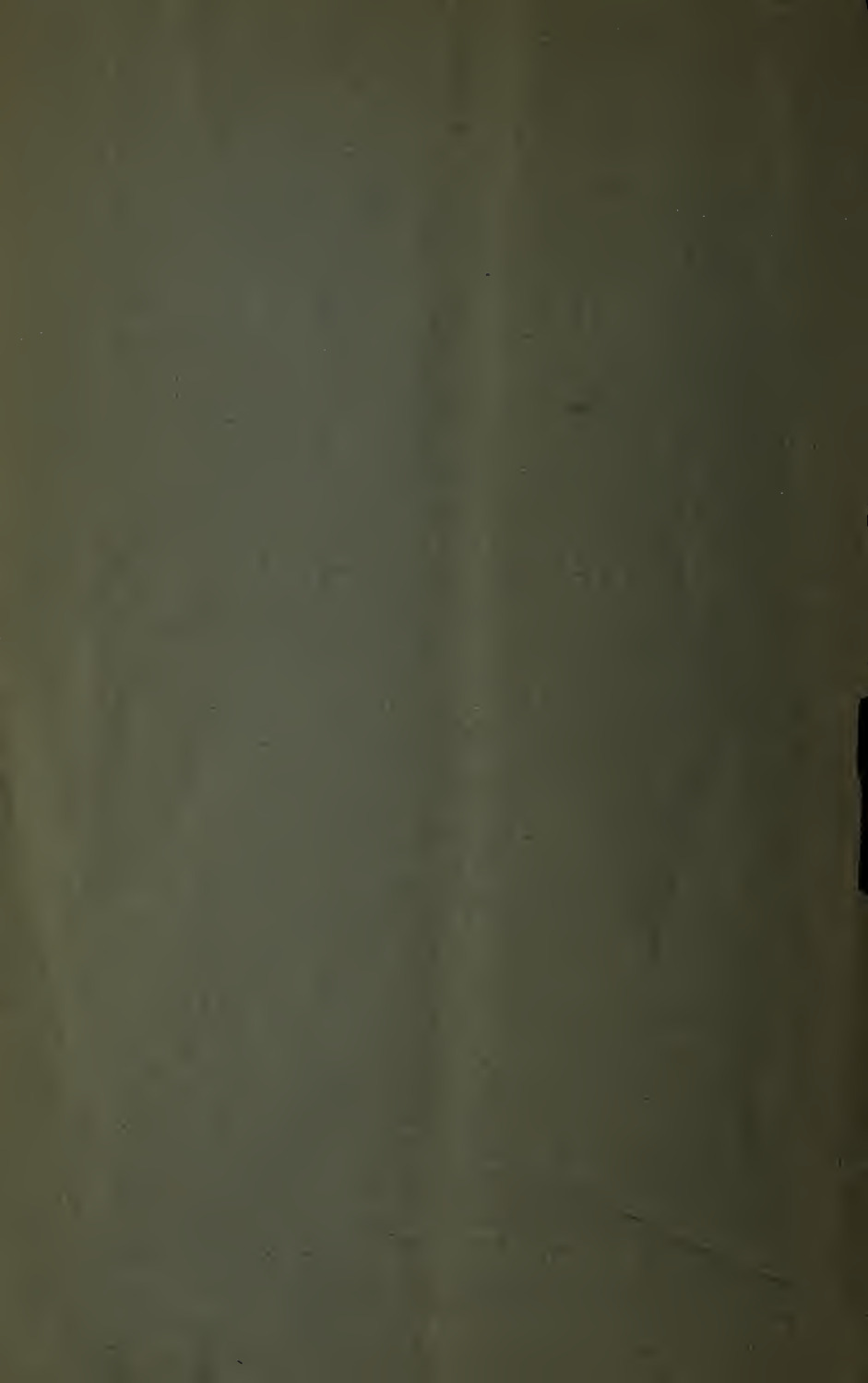
BY

G. FORD PORTER, M.D., F.R.C.S.Edin.,

Medical Officer of Health,
School Medical Officer,
Port Medical Officer.

Colchester:

Benham and Company Limited, 24, High Street.



TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND BURGESSES OF THE
BOROUGH OF HARWICH.

YOUR WORSHIP AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health, Sanitary Condition and Vital Statistics of the Borough of Harwich for the year ending December 31st, 1923.

I am pleased to report that no epidemics of any serious nature have occurred during the year, and that the health of the District as reflected in its low death rate still compares very favourably with most places in England.

UNEMPLOYMENT.—The prevalence of unemployment in this district has not yet abated, and the Town Council were obliged to again take the necessary steps to find work for these men, and during the year some 150 have been constantly engaged on relief works. Unfortunate as the unemployment is, it has enabled works of Town improvement to be put in hand which might otherwise have been long delayed, and I feel that the Town Council should be congratulated on the very effective steps they have taken to deal with the problem.

The improvements should be of lasting benefit to the Town, and a large number of families have been saved from doing what most men object to—seeking outdoor poor-law relief.

HOUSING.—The Housing of the working classes is a matter which must soon receive the further consideration of the Council, and I hope that during the ensuing year some effective steps will be taken to provide further houses for them.

The Cottage Hospital has done most admirable work during the year, and although it is not an institution managed by the Local Authority, I feel its work is so allied to the Public Health Service, that I should record my appreciation of it here.

METEOROLOGY.—The Council have arranged for a Climatological Station to be set up early in 1924, in order that sunshine, temperature and rainfall records may be obtained, and I hope next year to be able to include these valuable statistics in this report.

SEWERAGE.—The reconstruction of the Main Low Level Sewers on the Bathside and from Victoria Street to the Pumping Station were completed during the year.

CHILD WELFARE & INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The good work carried out in connection with the Child Welfare Centre is reflected in the Infant Mortality rate which this year is exceptionally low, being 44, the lowest rate on record for the Borough.

I should like to record again my appreciation of the help and assistance given to me by the Borough Surveyor, Mr. French, and his efficient staff.

Mr. French is to be specially congratulated on the important constructive work which has been carried out on the foreshore entirely under his own personal supervision, and which, as I have already stated, will prove of lasting benefit to the Borough.

I am, Your Worship & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. FORD PORTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

The population at the 1921 Census was 13,036.

The Borough of Harwich is situated on the East Coast, about 71 miles from London, and stands on a narrow peninsular. The chief occupation of the inhabitants is in connection with the Great Eastern Railway Company, who run a fleet of steamers, both cargo and passenger, to the Continent. Others are engaged in fishing. There are no large factories in the Borough.

Vital Statistics of the District.

The number of births registered was as under :—

				Males.		Females.		Total.
Legitimate	..	..	..	130	..	113	..	243
Illegitimate	..	..	..	3	..	4	..	7
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
				133		117		250

The number of Civilian deaths registered was	101
„ „ „ inward transfers was	22
„ „ „ outward „ „	5

The nett number of deaths to be taken into consideration in the calculation of the death rate is 118.

The Registrar-General estimates the population of the Borough for the year 1923 :—

For Birth Rate at 12,680.

For Death Rate at 12,148.

Calculating the Birth and Death Rates on the Registrar-General's figures, they are as follows :—

Birth Rate ..	19.7 per 1,000.
Death Rate ..	9.7 per 1,000

The Birth and Death rates for the past 10 years are given :—

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1914	23.1	10.2
1915	23.4	12.3
1916	28.7	13.3
1917	24.7	11.2
1918	25.7	16.5
1919	23.0	11.9
1920	31.1	11.6
1921	24.5	12.7
1922	22.8	11.0
1923	19.7	9.7

The following table is given to show how the Birth and Death rates for Harwich compare with England and Wales and the Great and Small Towns for the year 1923 :—

	Birth rate per 1,000 Total population.	Annual Death Rate. All causes per 1,000 (Civilian population).	Rate per 1,000 Births.	
			Diarrhoea (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under 1 year.
England and Wales ..	19.7	11.6	7.7	69
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London ..	20.4	11.6	9.9	72
155 Smaller Towns, 1921 Adjusted population 20,000—50,000 ..	19.8	10.6	6.4	69
London	20.2	11.2	10.2	60
HARWICH	19.7	9.7	4.0	44

Infant Mortality.

The number of infants who died under one year of age during the year 1923 was 11.

This gives the rate of 44 per 1,000 births registered. The rate per 1,000 for each of the previous 10 years is :—

1913 ..	81	1918 ..	75
1914 ..	130	1919 ..	82
1915 ..	108	1920 ..	81
1916 ..	68	1921 ..	72
1917 ..	62	1922 ..	87

Zymotic Mortality.

There were four deaths from the Principal Zymotic diseases :—

Smallpox ..	..	..	..	Nil
Measles ..	..	..	..	Nil
Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	Nil
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	Nil
Diphtheria and Croup ..	..	..	..	3
Enteric Fever ..	..	..	..	Nil
Diarrhoea ..	..	..	..	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ..	..	..	..	Nil

4

The Zymotic death was .31.

Causes of Death, 1923.

	Males.	Females.
Diphtheria	—	3
Influenza	1	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system..	3	2
Other Tuberculosis Diseases..	2	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	4	8
Rheumatic Fever	—	1
Diabetes	1	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	4	5
Heart Disease	11	8
Arterio Sclerosis	1	—
Bronchitis	6	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ..	2	0
Diarrhœa (under two years) ..	1	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ..	2	2
Congenital Debility	6	3
Suicide	0	1
Other Deaths from Violence ..	3	0
Other Defined Diseases	12	11
Totals	62	56

Ages at Deaths, 1923.

Under 1 year	11
1 and under 2 years	3
2 „ 5 „	2
5 „ 15 „	3
15 „ 25 „	7
25 „ 45 „	12
45 „ 65 „	19
65 and upwards	61
Total for all ages as given by Registrar	118

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER.—The town is supplied by the Tendring Hundred Water Company, whose mains also serve parts of the Tendring Rural District, Frinton, and Walton-on-Naze.

DRAINAGE.—The whole of the Borough, except a few low-lying and sparsely populated parts, is sewered. The sewage from Lower

Dovercourt and Harwich is discharged into the sea, while at Upper Dovercourt a separate system with septic tanks is in operation. The scheme for the reconstruction of the main low level sewers from Victoria Street to the Pumping Station and from the Anchor Hotel to the Pumping Station was completed during the year and has been quite effective.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Most of the closets in the Borough are the usual wash-down basins and are flushed by cisterns. There are still a number of closets which are hand-flushed, and as nuisances arise owners will be called upon to provide and fix adequate flushing apparatus. The pail closets and privies are all situate in Dovercourt and are chiefly at Upper Dovercourt, a rural part of the town. The approximate number is as under :—

Water Closets ..	3,800
Pail ,, ..	40
Privies ..	15

SCAVENGING.—The House Refuse is collected by the Corporation by direct labour and is dumped on low-lying land near the old Cement Works, and also for filling up some reclaimed land on the foreshore. All dumped refuse is covered with soil. It is collected daily in some parts, in all other parts bi-weekly.

The emptying of cess-pools, privies and pail closets is done by the occupiers or owners, except in special cases where it has been found difficult to obtain the labour. In these cases the work has been done by the Town Council at the owner's expense.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that during the year 188 inspections were made to premises for the purpose of detection of or abatement of nuisances. This figure does not include inspections made under the Housing Regulations, nor in connection with premises where meats and other foods are exposed for sale or in preparation for sale. These particulars are given under other headings.

The number of informal notices served was 46, and the number of statutory notices 1. The Inspector finds that he can usually get nuisances abated without recourse to the service of statutory notices. During the year 81 complaints were received and investigated, and steps taken to secure the abatement of nuisances where found to exist. None of these were of such a serious nature to call for comment in this report.

The number of nuisances abated was ..	77
Foward from year 1922	3
	80
Outstanding for year 1922	2
Outstanding for year 1923	4
	6

Schools.

The public elementary schools are frequently inspected by myself and the Sanitary Inspector. An annual inspection is also made by the Building and Sites Committee of the Education Committee just before the summer vacation. On the occasion of this visit works of cleansing the walls and ceilings, the repair of the buildings, the maintenance and improvement of the playgrounds and the general sanitary condition of the schools engage the attention of the Committee, and instructions are issued for any necessary works to be executed during the summer holidays.

All sanitary conveniences are hot-lime-washed once a year.

All the public elementary schools, and also the secondary and private schools, are provided with adequate supply of water from the public mains, and the sanitary conveniences are on the water carriage system. On the receipt of a notification of infectious disease, careful enquiry is made at the residence of the patient as to the school which the patient or contacts attend, and a notification is sent to the head teacher excluding the contact until further notice from me.

Food.

MILK SUPPLY.—There are five registered and two unregistered cow-keepers in the Borough, the latter being very small people. In every case the cows are habitually turned out during a part of each day.

The greater part of the Milk is imported chiefly from the Tending Rural District.

No action has been taken by the Council as to tuberculous milk.

In 1912 the Council appointed a Veterinary Surgeon to examine all cows at cowsheds in the Borough at least once a quarter, and to report their condition. This was continued about two years when it was found that the percentage of milk produced locally was so small the Council considered the result did not warrant the expense, and discontinued the arrangement.

Meat and other Food Inspections.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—Frequent inspections are made to the slaughter-houses, particularly at times of slaughtering, for the purposes of examining the meat and condition of the premises. There are seven slaughter-houses, five on the Bathside, one in Newhaven Lane, and one in Lee Road, Dovercourt. The premises are kept in a cleanly condition and hot-limewashed at frequent intervals.

267 inspections were made during the year and on 32 occasions diseased meat was found.

No. of Carcases of	Sheep inspected	..	239
" " "	Beasts " ..	..	238
" " "	Pigs " ..	..	218

List of Meat found to be unfit for human consumption on inspection of slaughter-houses :—

PIGS. Affected with tuberculosis :—

1 Carcase and all Offal.

8 Heads.

6 Mesenteries.

BEASTS. Affected with Tuberculosis :—

1 Forequarter and Offal.

1 Head and Tongue.

3 Livers.

4 Lungs.

Affected with Parasitic Disease :—

26 Livers.

1 Lung.

2 Kidneys.

In all the above cases the Meat was willingly surrendered.

Butchers have been asked to notify the inspector of any abnormal conditions noticed when dressing carcasses, and although this is satisfactory, there are occasions when the disease has escaped the notice of the butcher. Frequent inspection is, therefore, most desirable.

The Admiralty ceased to use the Slaughter-house in Harwich in June 1921, and this accounts for the decreased number of carcasses inspected.

Food Surrendered other than that Inspected at Slaughter Houses.

Beef (frozen) 389 lbs.

Mutton) ,, 26 lbs.

One dozen Ox Kidneys

BAKEHOUSES.—There are 10. Two are underground. All are kept in a fairly cleanly condition.

SALE OF FOODS AND DRUGS' ACT.—This is administered by the Essex County Council.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The following table shews the cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1923, and also those removed to the Borough Infectious Disease Hospital, Dovercourt.

			Notified.	Removed to Borough Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	..	..	41	.. 40	.. 3
Enteric	..	..	2	.. —	.. —
Scarlet Fever	..	..	31	.. 31	.. —
Chicken Pox	..	..	15	.. —	.. —
Erysipelas	..	..	2	.. —	.. —
Ophthalmia	..	..	—	.. —	.. —
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	—	.. —	.. —
Puerperal Fever	..	..	—	.. —	.. —
Pneumonia	..	..	—	.. —	.. —
Malaria	..	..	1	.. —	.. —
Tuberculosis :—					
(a) Pulmonary—	Male	3	—	.. —	.. 2
	Female	2	—	.. —	.. 2
			—	—	—
	Total		5	—	—
			—	—	—
(b) Non-Pulmonary—	Male	2	—	.. —	.. —
	Female	1	—	.. —	.. —
			—	—	—
	Total	..	3	.. —	.. —
			—	—	—
Grand Total			.. 100	.. 71	.. 7

Hospitals.

The Hospitals in the Borough are :—

- (1) The Borough Infectious Diseases Hospital.
- (2) The Cottage Hospital.

The Infectious Diseases Hospital consists of :—

- (1) Administration Block
 - (2) 4 Brick Built Wards 16 beds
 - (3) 1 Wood & Iron Ward 6 beds
 - (4) Timber Pavilion bought from W.D. .. 20 beds
- Total .. 42 beds

The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, and the Staff consists of a Matron and three Nurses, whilst additional temporary Nurses are obtained as required.

The following table shews the number of cases treated at the Hospital during the past five years :—

			1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Diphtheria .. ..	..	..	23	14	52	27	40
Scarlet Fever .. ..	..	..	7	27	19	32	29
Enteric .. ..	..	..	2	1	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0
Chicken Pox .. ..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0
Measles .. ..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza and Pneumonia ..	..	..	1	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	0	0	0	1	0
			—	—	—	—	—
			33	42	71	60	69
			—	—	—	—	—

An agreement was entered into on the 29th September 1921, between the Corporations of Colchester and Harwich, whereby the Corporation of Colchester agreed to receive and treat in their Hospital all cases of Smallpox occurring in the Borough of Harwich subject to their being in the opinion of the Medical Officer to the Colchester Corporation sufficient accommodation in their Hospital.

The COTTAGE HOSPITAL is situate in Dovercourt and is maintained by public subscriptions.

There are 12 beds.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. INFECTIOUS CASES.—The Corporation have a horsed ambulance for these cases. Small-pox patients will be removed in the ambulance belonging to the Corporation of Colchester.

NON-INFECTIOUS & ACCIDENT CASES.—A hand-wheeled ambulance is kept at the Fire Station for these cases and in addition there is a Red Cross motor ambulance available.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORKS.—Arrangements have been made for the examination of swabs and of material for detection of tubercle bacilli to be carried out by the County Council, and Medical Practitioners can send all specimens direct.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Supervising Authority, under the Midwives' Act, 1902 and 1918 is the Essex County Council.

CHILD WELFARE.—The compulsory notification of Births was adopted by the Borough in September, 1915, but until a Health Visitor was appointed no further action was taken. All Births in the Borough are now notified to the Medical Officer of Health, and the procedure now adopted is that selection is made from the Births notified in all cases which are considered suitable for the Nurse to visit. No children are visited until the Doctor or Midwife in

attendance has ceased to visit, unless specially requested to do so by the parents or the Doctor or Midwife in attendance. The Health Visitor only attends to give advice, and does not do active nursing or give treatment. She advises the parent with regard to the care and health of their babies, and also, when she thinks necessary, advises the opinion of the Doctor being sought. The average number of visits she pays to an infant in the first year is eight. Some infants will require a larger number of visits and some less, or none. These visits are continued up to school age, when the child comes under the School Inspector (Medical) and School Nurse; the idea being that all children should be under health supervision from birth until they leave school and take their places in the world.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

The Welfare Centre is still held in the rooms of the School Clinic owing to the difficulty of finding other suitable premises. It has again had a most successful year. It is open on one afternoon in the week. The Child Welfare Centre is controlled and run by Superintendent Miss Cockin. Miss Cockin has been from the beginning, most enthusiastic. The success of the Centre has been almost entirely due to her hard work, tact and efficiency. She has had several voluntary helpers, who have given their assistance most willingly. The work of the Centre is at present still mainly confined to supervising the up-bringing of the newly-born infant. Each baby brought to the Centre is weighed and a record of its weight and general condition is kept. The mother is given directions as to the proper way to deal with her child, and when necessary, she is advised to consult her own Doctor. A Doctor is in attendance at the Centre one afternoon in every fortnight. His advice is strictly confined to within physiological limits. When the Doctor is not visiting, the Superintendent gives a short lecture to the mothers on some questions dealing with the proper care of their children.

On each afternoon the Centre is open, tea is provided at the cost of one penny per head—this sum having been found sufficient to cover expenses. The Centre has taken over the Control of the sale of all Dried Milks and Malt Extract. A baby must be on the Centre Roll, and must be examined at least once a month to be eligible for Milk at a cheaper rate.

It is hoped that the work of the Centre will be extended in the near future and that an additional afternoon each week will be given to the Expectant Mother. In the near future a series of lectures and demonstrations in elementary cooking and dressmaking will be given when the opportunity arises.

The attendances at the Welfare Centre have been maintained throughout the year, and the mothers who come seem to take a keen interest in the well being of the babies.

The Centre again took part in the Annual Welfare Competition, and gained certificates in needlework, knitting, mothercraft, and cake making.

SALE OF DRIED MILKS.

Glaxo	120 lbs.	£11 1 11
Cow & Gate	548 lbs.	£26 3 1
Ambrosia	22 lbs.	£1 11 5
Molsynth	54 lbs.	£2 19 8
Visits during first year .. 1,829	Notified cases ..	261
Visits during following years 1,952	No. visited ..	253
Anti Natal visits 120	No. refused ..	5
Welfare Centre 821	No. of still-born ..	16
Breast fed	118	
Breast and supplementary ..	53	
Cows milk (from birth) ..	11	
Dried milk (from birth) ..	3	

HOUSING.

GENERAL.—The Town Council have since the war erected 46 Houses—14 at Upper Dovercourt on what is known as the Cemetery Site, and 32 on the Parkeston Road Site. The 14 on the Cemetery Site are of the non-parlour type. The 32 on the Parkeston Road Site are of the parlour type.

There is still a great need for decent houses for the working classes to enable some of the unfit houses to be closed. I think a further 50 should be provided.

OVERCROWDING.—There is still much overcrowding, but very little can be done until more houses are available.

FITNESS OF HOUSES.—The general standard of housing in the old part of Harwich is very poor, while in Dovercourt it is on the whole good. The general character of defects found to exist are :—

- (1) Want of free air space.
- (2) Dampness of Walls.
- (3) Defective plastering of Walls.
- (4) Defective yard paving.
- (5) General internal dilapidations due to neglect and decay.

On the inspection of houses, careful notes are taken of any structural and sanitary defects, and full particulars are entered in the Housing Register, and informal notices to remedy insanitary conditions have been served. With the exception of this measure no action was deemed advisable.

Until such time as additional housing accommodation is available, I think it would be unwise to call upon the owners to carry out extensive repairs.

STAFF ENGAGED ON HOUSING WORK.—The designated Officer under the Housing Regulations is the Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector. The Assistant Sanitary Inspector acts directly under his supervision and spends a great deal of his whole time on the inspection of dwelling houses.

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1923.

I. General Statistics.

Area (acres)	..	..	1526
Population (1921)	..	..	13,036
		Agricultural Land.	Buildings, etc.
Rateable Value	Dovercourt..	£1,249	£30,795
	Harwich ..	26	16,184
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£1,275	£46,979

Sum represented by a penny rate £187.

II. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total	Males.	Females.		
Births Legitimate ..	243	130	113	Birth Rate	19.7
„ Illegitimate ..	7	3	4		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		
	250	133	117		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		
Death ..	118			Death Rate	9.7
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth					
From sepsis ..		..	..	..	Nil
From other causes ..		..	..	..	Nil
Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1000 births					
Legitimate 10	Illegitimate	1	Total	..	44
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.					
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
0			
1	1	1	..	..	1	1	
5			
10	1	..		1	..	..	
15	1	..		..	1	..			
20	1	..		..		..
25	1	..		..	1		
35	2	..			
45			
55	1	..		..	1	..			
65	1	..		..	1	..			
Totals		<hr/> 5	<hr/> 4	..	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 2	..	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 1

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a)	Total	..	..	20
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923.			
	(i) By the Local Authority	..		Nil
	(ii.) By other bodies or persons	..		20

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I. INSPECTION.

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	228
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulation, 1910	71
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	Nil

II. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ..	25
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III. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	18
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—(a) by owners.. .. .	18
	(b) By local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	64
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied	
(a) By owners	89
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ..	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..	1
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..	Nil.
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..	Nil.

Sanitary Administration.

STAFF.—The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of the Medical Officer of Health (part time), the Sanitary Inspector (who is also Borough Surveyor), the Assistant Surveyor and Assistant Sanitary Inspector, while two Clerks are also employed in the Surveyor's Office. A whole time Health Visitor is also employed. The Borough Surveyor is a qualified Sanitary Inspector and Certificated Inspector of Meats and Foods. The Assistant Sanitary Inspector holds a Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as a Sanitary Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, HARWICH.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report of the School Medical Service.

I would like to again emphasise the fact that the School Clinic is still being held in most unsuitable quarters. The valuable work which is being carried out there in the treatment of minor ailments and examination of eyes and operations for tonsils and adenoids is apt to suffer in consequence. I would strongly urge the Committee to find more useful accommodation elsewhere as soon as possible. The School Inspections continue to show a good average level of health and physique amongst the children.

During the year an increasing number of children have been inspected who have brought with them cards from the Child Welfare Nurse, giving details of their family history from birth.

In time to come we shall have complete records of all children from the day of their birth to the day when they finally leave school. I am pleased to report that our School Nurse, Miss Bevis, continues to show great enthusiasm in her work, which she carries out in a most efficient and thorough manner.

A detailed account of the work done is given under the following headings and in the appended tables.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obedient Servant,

G. FORD PORTER.

General Work at School Clinic and Schools, 1923.

						No. of Children.	No. of Attendances.
Minor Ailment Clinic	..	..	..	..	..	288	2072
Eye Clinic	..	..	..	..	..	113	300
Surgical Clinic	..	..	..	..	..	30	70
Pediculi Clinic	..	..	..	..	..	34	120
Dental Clinic	..	..	..	..	..	443	814
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	908	3376

Number of Schools	..	..	..	..	..	12
School Nurse's visits to Schools	..	..	..	..	..	276
Visits to Homes re Cleanliness, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	712
" " " re following up after Medical Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	237
Total number of Visits paid by Nurse	..	..	..	..	..	949

Other particulars re-uncleanliness, etc., will be found in Table IV., Group V.

Medical Inspection Returns.

TABLE I. RETURN OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS
1st JANUARY, 1923, TO 31st DECEMBER, 1923.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Code Group Inspections—

Entrants	237
Intermediates	224
Leavers	176

Total	637
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Number of other Routine Inspections	56
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B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	80
Number of Re-Inspections	100
Total	180

TABLE II.

A. RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION
IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1923.

Defect or Disease.		Routine Inspections.		Specials.	
		Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.
1		2	3	4	5
	Under the average weight	23			
	Uncleanliness				
SKIN.	Ringworm—Scalp			11	
	Body			5	
	Scabies	1		6	
	Impetigo	4		51	
	Other Diseases (Non-Tuberculous)	2			
EYE.	Blepharitis	24		8	
	Conjunctivitis	1			
	Keratitis	1			
	Corneal Opacities				
	Defective Vision (excluding Squint)	60		8	
	Squint	6		7	
	Other conditions				
EAR.	Defective Hearing	5			
	Otitis Media			1	
	Other Ear Diseases	4		24	
NOSE	Enlarged Tonsils only	14	37		
AND	Adenoids only	6	3		
THROAT.	Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids	19	8		
	Other conditions				
	Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tubercular)		46		
	Defective Speech	5			
TEETH.	Dental Diseases	134			
HEART	Heart Disease				
AND	Organic	5			
CIRCULA-	Functional		4		
TION.	Anæmia	21			
LUNGS.	Bronchitis	3			
	Other non-Tuberculous Diseases				
TUBER-	Pulmonary—Definite				
CULOSIS.	Suspected		3		
	Non-Pulmonary—Glands	2			
	Spine	1			
	Hip	3			
	Other Bones & Joints				
	Skin				
	Other forms	1			
NERVOUS	Epilepsy				
SYSTEM.	Chorea				
	Other Conditions				
DEFOR-	Rickets	2			
MITIES.	Spinal Curvature	2			
	Other Forms				
	Other defects and Diseases	7		83	

B. NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN FOUND AT ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (EXCLUDING UNCLEANLINESS AND DENTAL DISEASES).

GROUP. 1	NUMBER OF CHILDREN.		Percentage of Children found to require Treatment. 4
	Inspected 2	Found to require Treatment. 3	
CODE GROUPS :—			
Entrants	237		
Intermediates	224		
Leavers	176		
Total (Code Groups)	637	250	$\frac{1}{3}$ (about)
Other Routine Inspections	56	14	$\frac{1}{4}$

ABLE III.—RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
IN THE AREA.

		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
BLIND (partially).			1	1
DEAF AND DUMB.				
MENTALLY DEFICIENT.	Feeble- minded.	Attending Public Elemen- tary Schools		
		Attending Certified Schools for Blind		
		Not at School		
		Attending Public Elemen- tary Schools	1	2
	Imbeciles.	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children	1	1
		Notified to the Local Control Authority by Local Education Authority during the year	4	1
	Idiots.	Notified to the Local Control Authority during the year	1	1
BACKWARD CHILDREN (not mentally defective)		Attending Public Elemen- tary Schools	10	11
EPILEPTICS.		Attending Public Elemen- tary Schools		
		Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics		
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools.. ..		
PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE.	Delicate Children.	Attending Public Elemen- tary Schools	25	30
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children		55
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools.. ..		
		Not at School		
	Active non- pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elemen- tary Schools	3	3
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children		6
		In Sanatoria or Hospital Schools		1
		Not at School		1
	Crippling due to causes other than Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elemen- tary Schools	6	5
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children		11
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools.. ..		
		Not at School		
	Other Physical Defectives.	Attending Public Elemen- tary Schools		
		Attending Open-air Schools		
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children		
		Not at School		

TABLE IV.—RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1923.

TREATMENT TABLE.

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN.

Disease or Defect.	Treated.		
	Under L.E.A. Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
SKIN. Ringworm—Scalp	11		11
Ringworm—Body	5		5
Scabies	7		7
Impetigo	55		55
Other Skin Diseases		2	2
EYE DISEASE.	32		32
EAR DISEASE.	27	2	29
MISCELLANEOUS.	90		90
Total	227	4	231

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN.

Defect or Disease.	No. of Defects dealt with.			
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Submitted to refraction by private prac- titioner or at hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Errors of Refraction (includ- ing Squint)	77	4	—	81
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I).	—	—	—	—
Total	77	4	—	81

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	73
(b) Otherwise	4

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	73
(b) Otherwise	4

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.
NUMBER OF CHILDREN.

Received operative treatment.			Received other forms of Treatment.	Total number treated.
Under L.E.A. Scheme, Clinic or Hospital	By Private Practitioner or Hospital.	Total.		
30 (at clinic)	2	32	48	80

GROUP IV.—DENTAL DEFECTS.

(1) NUMBER OF CHILDREN DEALT WITH.

	Age Groups.												Specials.	Total.
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14				
(a) Inspected by Dentist	66	128	215	199	181	160	137	125	121	24		134	1490	
(b) Referred for treatment														602
(c) Actually treated. ..														443
(d) Re-treated														39
(2) Number of Half-days for Inspection							..	..	..	..	..	..	11
,, ,, Half-days for Treatment							..	..	..	..	..	..	67
													—	78
(3) Attendances of Children at Clinic	..						..	..	..	..	..	..	814
(4) Fillings—Permanent Teeth ..	..						..	..	..	..	..	..	373
,, Temporary Teeth ..	..						..	..	..	..	..	..	54
													—	427
(5) Extracted—Permanent Teeth	..						..	..	..	..	..	..	26
,, Temporary Teeth	..						..	..	..	..	..	..	452
													—	478
(6) Anæsthetics (General)	..						..	..	..	..	..	..	19
(7) Scalings and Dressings	..						..	..	..	..	..	..	55

GROUP V.—UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

- (i.) Average number of visits per School made during the year by the School Nurse 23
- (ii.) Total number of Examinations of Children in the Schools by School Nurse 9305
- (iii.) Number of Individual Children found unclean 185
- (iv.) Number of Children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority 30
- (v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—
 - (a) Under the Education Act, 1921 —
 - (b) Under School Attendance Byelaws —

Eye Clinic.

Total number of cases treated :—

Boys ..	..	..	43
Girls ..	..	..	37

Total number for whom spectacles were provided, 73.

Analysis of cases treated :—

			Boys.	Girls.
Hypermetropia	..	..	16	11
Astigmatic Hypermetropia	..	..	4	4
Myopia	..	..	12	7
Astigmatic Myopia	..	..	0	4
Mixed Astigmatism	..	..	0	0
No error of Refraction	..	..	11	11

The accuracy of vision in each case is tested by Snellin's Test type, and the error of refraction estimated by suitable lenses, the results being subsequently confirmed by retinoscopy. The necessary spectacles are then ordered and the children are again examined with the spectacles on to ensure a correct fit being obtained. The parents are instructed to insist on the children wearing spectacles, and to report at once the fact of any breakage or discomfort caused by their use. Whenever possible, a re-examination is made a few months afterwards in each case to make sure that the defective vision is perfectly corrected.

ALEXANDER PORTER, M.D.

TO THE CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE HARWICH EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting the annual report of the working of the Dental Clinic for the year 1923.

Below are the necessary statistics.

This year still shows a gratifying improvement in the general condition of the children's teeth, as shown by the following figures in comparison with the last year's report.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Yours obedient servant,

LEONARD G. WHELPTON,
School Dental Officer.

Dental Report.

I. NUMBER OF CHILDREN DEALT WITH. 1356 INSPECTED.

	Age Groups.										Total
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
(a) Inspected by Dentist	66	128	215	199	181	160	137	125	121	24	1356
(Specials) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	134
Grand Total											1490
(b) Referred for Treatment				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	602
(c) Actually Treated				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	443
(d) Re-treated (included in c.)				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(39)
Refused treatment ..				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87
Absent through illness				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Had private treatment				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Waiting for treatment (inspected just before Christmas)				..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21

II. PARTICULARS OF TIME GIVEN AND OPERATIONS UNDERTAKEN.

(1)	Number of Half-days devoted to Inspection	..	..	..	11
(2)	„ „ Half-days devoted to Treatment	..	..	..	67
(3)	„ „ Attendances of Children at Dental Clinic	..	..	..	814
(4)	„ „ Permanent Teeth Extracted	..	..	..	26
(5)	„ „ Temporary Teeth Extracted	..	..	..	452
(6)	„ „ Permanent Teeth Filled	..	..	..	373
(7)	„ „ Temporary Teeth Filled	..	..	..	54
(8)	Total number of Fillings	..	..	..	427
(9)	Number of Administrations of General Anæsthetics included in (4) and (5)	..	..	..	19
(10)	„ „ Dressings and Scalings	..	..	..	44
(11)	„ „ Regulation Cases completed (no fresh ones needing Bands, etc., to be undertaken)	..	..	..	11